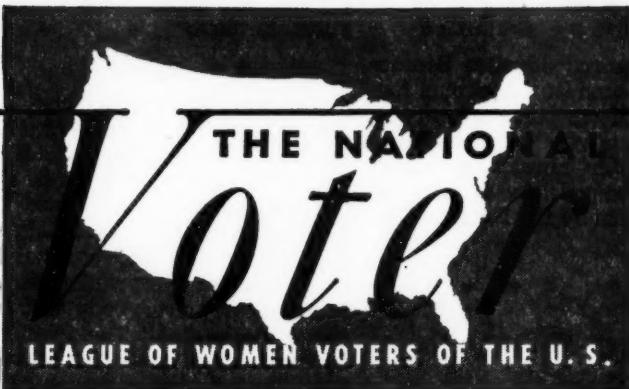


May 15, 1957



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U. S.

1026 17th STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

## National Council Holds Biennial Meeting

Twenty minutes with the President of the United States, breakfast with nearly one half of the Senate and nearly one fourth of the House, presentation of an American Heritage award, launching of a loyalty-security film with three leading "actors" there in person—these were highlights of the 1957 meeting of the national Council of the League of Women Voters in Washington April 30 to May 3. "Special attractions" they were, but all were closely related to League Program.

The meeting with President Eisenhower had been scheduled for 15 minutes, but his deep interest in the subject the League had asked him to talk about—economic aid to underdeveloped countries—stretched the time to 20 minutes. After he had made his now famous remarks comparing the foreign aid program to the engines of an airplane, he said "This is getting to be a long speech, isn't it?" and

continued to underline the importance of the mutual security program to world peace.

The ceremony at the White House opened with presentation by the League's national President of a 300-word document testifying to the long-time interest of the League in the principle of international cooperation through the United Nations, trade, economic development and technical assistance. Drawing upon recent experience gained through Focus on the Future, the statement said: "We find substantial evidence that there is widespread support among thoughtful people for American participation in international economic development, and that sharp reduction in this area of United States responsibility cannot be justified at this time." The document bore signatures of Council delegates and national President.

At breakfast, 40 Senators and 100 Representatives from 38 states

were guests of delegates from their home states. After breakfast, delegates continued an exchange of views with their congressional delegations in Senate and House offices; some interviews were tape-recorded for use "back home."

One of the top American Heritage awards was given to the League as a whole for "outstanding public service in the National Nonpartisan Register, Inform Yourself and Vote Program of 1956" and was presented by Ron Kennedy, former executive director of American Heritage Foundation.

"Kill Only the Ivy," a 28-minute film produced by the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund and dealing with the industrial security program, drew enthusiastic response. Presented to the audience were the three who participated in the film in their own right—Adrian Fisher, vice president and counsel, *Washington Post and Times Herald*;

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President Eisenhower addresses the national Council of the League of Women Voters in the White House Rose Garden May 1. In his hands is the document signed by Council delegates and presented to him by the League's national President, Mrs. John G. Lee, standing to his left. (Wide World Photo)

# ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL?

The President's suggestion to Congress that he be granted power to veto individual items in appropriation bills has injected a spark of life into an 80-year-old issue on Capitol Hill. The item veto power, he wrote Speaker Rayburn, would "help assure continuing economy on the part of the Congress as well as the executive branch."

The President had been asked by the House to suggest economies that could be made in the current budget. He included the item veto proposal in a list of ten procedural reforms which, he said, would help achieve "an improved budgetary situation and greater efficiency in our government."

## AS THE EXECUTIVE SEES IT

Three Presidents before him have urged Congress to allow them to use this simple device for pruning uneconomic items from spending bills—Grant, Arthur, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Their requests were as unsympathetically received by Congress as President Eisenhower's seems fated to be.

If the President had this power, he could successfully cope with the omnibus type of bill with which Congress often presents him. Sometimes such bills include legislative riders, costly pet projects for local communities which have not had thorough investigation, and other spending ideas which, in a time of high government expense, could be deferred. Now, if the President strongly disapproves some measures in an appropriation bill, he must use the veto and send it back to Congress. Congress may then pass it again by a two-thirds vote in each house; or may rewrite it, leaving out the parts to which there is objection, and pass it again. This is a lengthy process. More often the President accepts the uneconomic items along with those he believes justified. If a money bill is vetoed near the end of a congressional session, or after Congress has adjourned, funds for vital government functions are cut off.

Two years ago President Eisenhower complained of the system as he reluctantly signed a \$31.9 billion defense appropriation bill. He objected to two provisions in the

bill: one required advance Senate and House committee approval for the closing of various civilian-type establishments run by the Army, Navy, and Air Force; the other prohibited the purchase of foreign-made silk yarn by the Defense Department.



At least 40 states now grant the item veto privilege to their Governors. It was written into the constitution of the Confederacy. It is part of the model state constitution prepared by the National Municipal League.

## AS CONGRESS SEES IT

Some members of Congress who favor more coordinated and effective budgetary management are convinced that the item veto is one of the budgetary reforms most needed for dealing with the present-day billion-dollar budgets. But unless pressures for better budgetary management develop from the current "cut the budget" pleas, this minority support is not likely to become majority congressional opinion.

Pressure on Congress to reform its own procedures must come as a clear mandate from constituents if Congress is to impose such restraints as the item veto upon itself.

The President's lack of authority to trim money bills gives Congress the opportunity to force the Administration to accept so-called "pork barrel" projects.

This kind of bill is where spending can skyrocket, for it is not hard to find worthy projects for government spending in any of the 435 congressional districts, and naturally every Representative wants to do something for his own district. These are the bills on which the most "logrolling" is done, as members of the House cooperate with each other, swapping votes in order to get approval for the proj-

ect that will benefit their own constituents most.

## PRO

The late Senator Arthur Vandenberg (R., Mich.), a staunch advocate of the item veto, stated the case for it succinctly when he said: "Congress long since learned that if you put a little something for each of the 435 congressional districts in one appropriation basket, pretty nearly everybody will help carry the basket." The President, he commented, must then make an "omnibus" decision on each of the dozen or so appropriation bills at each congressional session.

Kenneth B. Keating (R., N.Y.), ranking minority member of the House Judiciary Committee and sponsor of an item veto proposal in the House, said recently:

"It is grossly unfair and poor business for a President to have to sign these catchall money bills. He is trapped because if he doesn't sign an appropriation bill the department or agency involved will be cut off completely from the funds it needs to operate. Yet if he signs an appropriation bill, he knows frequently that he is approving items which he would never approve if they stood alone.

## ON THE NEWSSTANDS

"Civic Watchdogs in High Heels" in the June issue of *Reader's Digest* is a story about the League of Women Voters. It tells of accomplishments by the League in general and recites a number of case histories at local and state levels.

Not only is the article interesting reading, it has served as the basis of a five-minute film for use by 150 television stations and a five-minute interview with the League's national President for distribution to 500 radio stations.

"... if this provision (item veto) had been in effect last year, America's taxpayers could have been saved from \$2 to \$3 billion.

"Here is a fine opportunity for members of Congress to show they mean what they say about economy in government and are not just rendering lip service. Over the long haul, adoption of the item veto would be the most constructive single step Congress could take to cut federal spending."

Senator Bush (R., Conn.) made a speech in the Senate May 2, in which he said: "I wish we could pass an item veto bill, so the President of the United States could veto certain items which creep into appropriation bills without having to veto the whole bill . . . Most of the states permit their Governors to exercise an item veto privilege. In the interests of economy, it seems to me we could hardly pass a bill which would be more useful than an item veto bill."



Clarence Cannon (D., Mo.), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, expressed his disapproval of giving the President the final voice in what to spend and where. After hearing the President's request read in the House, he told a reporter, "It's the most impractical, unconstitutional proposition that could be suggested. It would give the President a club over every state delegation."

"It would be in contravention of the idea of the founding fathers that the departments of the government shall be kept separate and distinct. It would be encroachment by the executive department on the prerogatives and functions of the legislative department."

"No more disastrous a proposition could be considered. It would make the President an unconstitutional monarch."

John Taber (R., N.Y.), the House Appropriations Committee ranking minority member, a long-time foe of pork-barrel bills, feels much the same way.

Senator Bridges (R., N.H.), ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has made his opposition just as plain. He said recently, "I am wholly opposed to the item veto. The President of the United States—and that means any President in the future—could completely dominate the Congress if he had such

authority. If this were written into the Constitution you might as well give up the legislative branch of government."

This expressed opposition probably reflects the attitude of the majority of the members of Congress. There are some notable exceptions, however.

#### HOW TO DO IT

There are two ways usually suggested for achieving a presidential item veto: 1) by the complicated method of amending the Constitution; 2) by the simpler device of congressional passage of a law, a rule or an amendment to each appropriation bill.

Since the Constitution does not spell out in detail the presidential veto powers, there has been considerable disagreement as to whether an item veto would be constitutional without an amendment specifically providing this power. The constitutionality of the item veto has never been tested. However, Congress is permitted by the Constitution to make its own rules.

#### SHOES AND SHORES

Two new publications on League national Program subjects are ready: "On the Water Front"—the basic pamphlet on water resources, at 25 cents a copy.

"Just Suppose You Were in the Other Fellow's Shoes"—the popular pamphlet on loyalty-security, at 15 cents a copy.

Both you will find thought-provoking. Both you will find eye-appealing. Both are required reading if you want to keep informed on the 1956-58 Current Agenda. Both you can order from your Publications Chairman or the national office.

Some constitutional authorities believe that Congress could define the term "bill," used in the Constitution rather loosely, so that each item of an appropriation bill would become, under the definition, a separate bill, or a bill within a bill. If this were done, the President could exercise his veto without question on these "bills within bills." Elbert P. Tuttle, former chief counsel of the Treasury Department, made this point forcefully before the Senate Rules and Administration Committee at a hearing in 1953.

Two bills now before Congress,

H.R. 830 (Multer, D., N.Y.) and H.R. 7405 (Udall, D., Ariz.), use this approach. These bills would make every provision of an appropriation bill which 1) appropriates money, 2) authorizes the making of a contract or 3) alters existing law or enacts law, a **separate bill** and would permit the President to veto one or more of them without destroying the effectiveness of the others.

But because so many members of Congress do not accept this interpretation of the Constitution's provisions for the passage of a bill, the constitutional amendment approach has many adherents.

Senator Byrd (D., Va.) has long been a proponent of the item veto. This year he and Senators Williams (R., Del.) and Thurmond (D., S.C.) are sponsors of S.J. Res. 58 which proposes a constitutional amendment giving the President the item veto power.

This same proposal is embodied in H.J. Res. 47 (Keating), H.J. Res. 239 (Bennett, D., Fla.), H.J. Res. 245 (Poff, R., Va.) and H.J. Res. 284 (Byrnes, R., Wis.).

These bills and resolutions are pending before the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, respectively. No action has been scheduled on any of them.

The League of Women Voters has a position on the item veto under Continuing Responsibility 6: "Measures to improve the budgetary procedures of the Congress." On the basis of advice from the 1957 Council, the national Board has agreed to testify in support of the item veto should the opportunity present itself.

#### VOTERCIPHER No. 9

VOTERCIPHER is a cryptogram—writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 9 will be found in the next issue.

AB C XYZDEFCEU CVFYYZYBW  
AG BDW YGGYBWACH; ICFWA-  
EAICWADB AG. — CBDBUZDTG.  
WSAG AG CHGD WFTY AB WSY  
HYCVTY DQ KDZYB JDWYFG.

*Answer to Votercipher No. 8*

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.—Benjamin Franklin.

## ★ CONGRESSIONAL ★ SPOTLIGHT

**FOREIGN AID:** Senate Special Committee to Study the Foreign Aid Program submitted its report May 14. Can be ordered by number, S. Rept. 300, Senate Document Room, Washington 25, D. C.

**TREATIES:** S.J. Res. 3,† a new version of the Bricker Amendment to limit the President's treaty-making powers, introduced early in the 85th Congress by Sen. Bricker (R., Ohio), was referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. No action has been scheduled.

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY:** Senate Foreign Relations Committee is holding hearings on statute which would permit United States to become member of this agency dedicated to peaceful uses of atomic energy. This agency would provide the opportunity for pilot projects for inspection of atomic installations and production, a beginning requirement for any workable disarmament plan.

**TRADE:** H.R. 6630\* (Cooper, D., Tenn.) and H.R. 6631\* (Kean, R., N.J.), identical bills authorizing U. S. participation in Organization for Trade Cooperation, were introduced April 4 and referred to House Ways and Means Committee. No action has been scheduled. These bills include safeguarding provisions recommended by Committee after last year's hearings, and two new provisions: 1) advisory committee of representatives of U. S. labor, industry and agriculture to advise and consult with U. S. representatives on matters coming before OTC; 2) requirement that annual report be made to the President for transmittal to Congress about OTC activities affecting U. S. labor, industry and agriculture.

**POLLUTION:** The House April 4 granted full \$50 million budgeted for fiscal 1958 to stimulate building of municipal sewage plants under Water Pollution Act of 1956. This amount is included in Health, Education and Welfare Department appropriation now before Senate Appropriations Committee.

**D. C. HOME RULE:** S. 1846, introduced by Sen. Butler (R., Md.) and 12 other Senators April 10, and H.R. 6907 (Simpson, R., Ill.) would provide territorial form of government for the District of Columbia, i.e., appointed Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, elected legislative council and nonvoting member of House of Representatives. Congress could override any action of the council by passing its own legislation. S. 1280 (Neely, D., W.Va., and Morse, D., Ore.) and H.R. 1002 (Wier, D., Minn.) would provide elected Mayor, city council, school board, and nonvoting delegate to House of Representatives. All three bills were referred to Senate and House District of Columbia Committees.

\* Indicates League support.

† Indicates League opposition.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1)

Clark R. Mollenhoff of the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*; Leo F. Lightner, counsel to the Engineers and Scientists of America.

These events, newsworthy as they were, accounted for only a minor share of the delegates' time. The Council, largely an advisory body, devoted its major attention to the 1956-58 League Program, with a look back over the first year and a look forward to the second year. It adopted a 1957-58 budget of \$207,134, the income to be derived from \$170,205 in pledges and gifts from local and state Leagues, \$30,129 from reserves, and \$6,800 from interest on the auxiliary income and reserve funds.

New membership figures were announced: 1023 local Leagues (an increase of 20 in a year) and 128,000 individual members (an increase of about 2,000 in a year).

The Council is composed of no more than two delegates from each state, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, plus the national Board. This year representatives from 44 states (all except Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Wyoming) and the District of Columbia, and the 14 members of the national Board comprised a voting delegate body of 97; in addition, 21 nonvoting observers attended.

This statement was issued:

"The National Council of the League of Women Voters unanimously reaffirms strong approval of economic aid to underdeveloped countries. It supports adequate appropriations for economic aid, endorses the principle of long-range development funds, and requests that no cut be made in appropriations for United Nations Technical Assistance.

"The League of Women Voters believes that in the long run it is thrifty to spend money now to help other nations in their efforts to raise their standards of living and develop their economies. In this interdependent world the economic and political health of all countries directly affects the prosperity of the United States. Through economic aid we are promoting our own chances for a peaceful and stable world. We cannot afford to throw away this sound investment in the future."

## TO NATIONAL BOARD

**Mrs. Robert J. Phillips** was appointed to the national Board on May 3 at the close of the national Council meeting, which she had attended as a delegate.



Mrs. Phillips joined the League in 1926 when she became a member of the staff of the Illinois state League, where she served until 1931 . . . she was president of the North DuPage County League (now Glen Ellyn) two years, 1939 and 1940 . . . left to serve on the Village Board of Glen Ellyn (nonpartisan elective office) 1941-45 . . . in 1945 went on state League Board, served as vice president in charge of organization until 1949, then four years as treasurer, and from 1953 to 1957 as state League president . . . husband is investment counselor, has his own firm . . . they have a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

## MISS STRAUSS HONORED

A new and unusual honor has come to Anna Lord Strauss, national President of the League from 1944 to 1950, and now president of the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund.

Miss Strauss has been asked by the United Nations to serve as a consultant discussion leader for a seminar on "Civic Responsibilities and Increased Participation of Asian Women in Public Life" which is to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, August 5-17.

Representatives from 21 Asian nations have been invited to send representatives to the seminar. Miss Strauss will be the only person from the United States and the only non-Asian, except for U.N. officials, attending. She attributes the request for her services to her League experience.

Following her stay in Bangkok, Miss Strauss will conduct a series of workshops in a number of Asian countries under the auspices of the Committee of Correspondence, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to strengthen the free world by interchange of ideas and experiences among women leaders everywhere who are working toward citizenship responsibility in a free society.

## THE NATIONAL VOTER

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